

From: Thomas Ellen
To: Dept Justice
Date: 11/16/01 9:13am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am disappointed in what I have heard so far in the news in regard to the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I began using IBM's OS/2 operating system back in the mid 90's (then a joint project between Microsoft and IBM) because DOS and early WINDOWS operating systems were not powerful enough. Since Microsoft split with IBM they have undermined the use of other operating systems by consumers on PC's by their monopolistic contracts with PC manufacturers and their deliberate writing of their software so it would not work on other systems such as OS/2. This obviously deprives consumers who would like an alternative to Microsoft Windows that choice.

In terms of a settlement, I would like to see Microsoft forced to repatriate the tens of billions of monopoly rents they have made to the other companies who had competing products such as IBM, Linux, Netscape and so forth. This money should be held in trust by DOJ and distributed to the harmed companies. To get this money, these companies have to spend it on development and marketing of these competing PC software products. For instance, I would like to see IBM continue with the development of OS/2 and put a real push on to market it to consumers. The second part of the settlement should be the mandate that Microsoft has to make their software (Office, games, etc.) compatible with other operating systems. Finally, the third part should be the elimination of the monopoly contracts they have with PC manufacturers.

Please reach a settlement that really restores competition.

Tom Ellen